

# Gifted Education Advisory Council

Serving the LWSD Quest and Accelerated Learning Programs Community

www.lwsdgeac.org

Issue: 4 - Sept 2010

## What is GEAC?

Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC) is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization started in 1989 to serve the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) Quest program.

GEAC works in coordination with the LWSD and the Quest program similarly to how a PTSA serves your local neighborhood school.

All GEAC members are parents and volunteers; our operating budget is funded 100% by direct donations/corporate matching.

Your support serves the special needs of highly capable students/families, assists Quest teachers, and provides supplementary and enrichment materials for Quest classrooms.

## Annual Membership + Matching ~ it all adds up!

Over the last 6 years, GEAC has contributed over **\$62,000** directly to Quest classrooms for special projects, field trips, training, books, technology and supplementary materials.

Last year alone, close to **\$8,000** was made available to fund Classroom Grant applications, and just this past August, each teacher received a check for **\$200 (\$5,760 total)** to start the school year.

These efforts are made possible only through the generous donation of time and dollars from our members, with matching and grant support from local companies like Microsoft, The Fred Meyer Foundation, and Boeing.

*Please consider joining us to further help our children's education.*

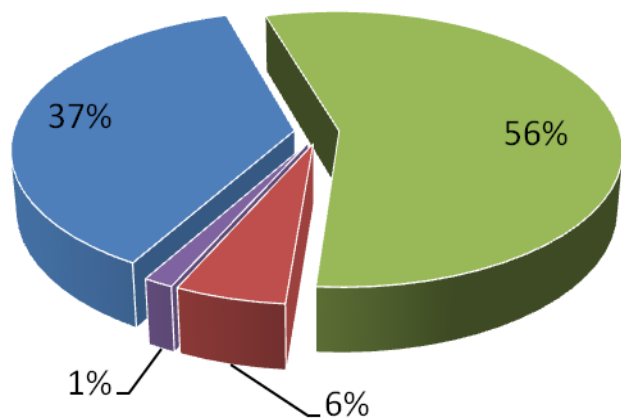
- Please join GEAC -

**Help GEAC meet our annual goals for the 2010-2011 school year!  
Please consider joining and/or making a donation.**

Donate by ☺ 12/31/10 ✨ for a tax-deductible contribution for 2010.

## Annual GEAC Programs

Where Does Your Money Go?  
(2009-2010)



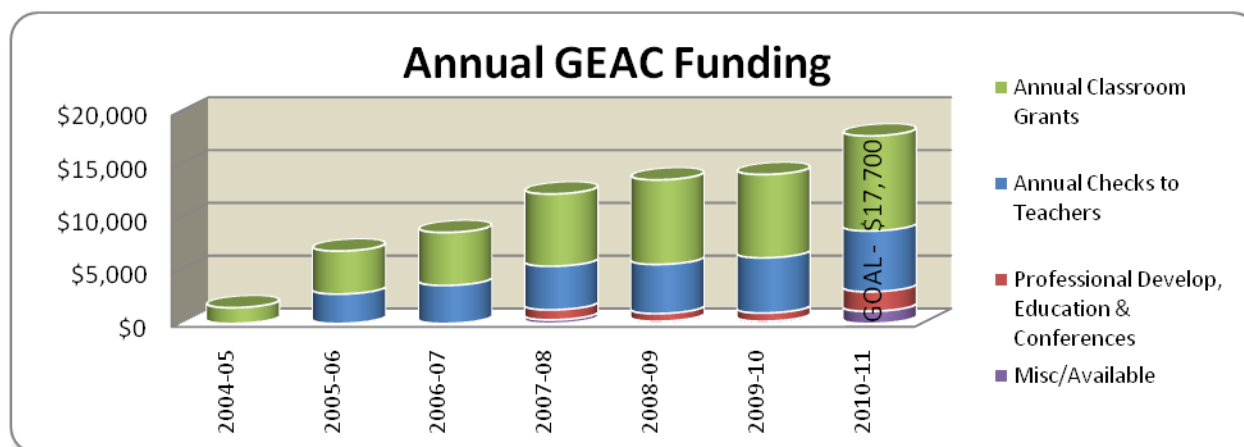
- Annual Checks to Teachers
- Annual Classroom Grants
- Professional Development, Education & Conferences
- Misc/Available

*Last year, 93% of donations went directly back to Quest classrooms. 6% funded educational programs for gifted families and professional development for Quest teachers. 99% directly supported Quest classrooms & families.*

## What Do We Do?

- **Communicate** information related to highly capable issues and opportunities between LWSD, Quest office, schools, teachers, and parents.
- **Provide financial support** directly to Quest classrooms.
- **Offer classes** for parents including “Guiding your Gifted Child,” and “Parenting the Highly Capable Adolescent.”
- **Sponsor or co-sponsor information sessions** about topics such as: Transition to Quest, Twice-Exceptional Students, Advanced Placement Q&A, Applying to Highly Selective Colleges, and Brain Sports (Math, Chess, Robotics, etc.)
- **Advocate** for programs and funding for highly capable/accelerated learning programs at state and local levels.

*If you are curious about GEAC, or want to learn more about the QUEST program and education for highly capable students, join us Wednesday, Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> for our next meeting - the meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month, and are open to anyone who is interested.*



## Where Do Donations Go?

### ■ Annual GEAC Grants to Quest Teachers

Each winter, GEAC sponsors a grant program for Quest teachers to request special items they would like for their classroom. Past grants have included field trips, materials for special projects, supplementary curriculum, training, books, cameras, software, and science kits. Last year, GEAC gave 37 grants for a total of \$7,900 to Quest teachers. Our goal for this year is \$9,000.

### ■ Fall Direct-to-Classroom Checks for Teachers

Each August, before the school year begins, GEAC provides every Quest teacher with a check. Teachers use the money for items such as additional school supplies, enrichment materials, supplemental curriculum, learning tools, novel sets, organizational materials for the classroom, etc. The initial amount was \$150/teacher. GEAC was able to increase it to \$175, and now \$200.

### ■ Professional Development, Education & Conferences

Throughout the year, GEAC organizes, initiates, and funds educational classes, information sessions, and conferences for gifted families, and supplements professional development for Quest teachers.

## Upcoming GEAC Sponsored Educational Opportunity

### ■ 7 week Series - Guiding the Gifted Child

*Presenter: Sandy Malone-Long, Quest psychologist & school counselor.*

Dates: Seven Mondays - 9/27, 10/4, 10/11, 10/18, 10/25, 11/1 & 11/8  
 Time: 6:30 - 8:00 PM  
 Location: Redmond Elementary School Library (16800 N.E. 80th St., Redmond)  
 Cost: \$150 for the 7-week series. 2nd Parent/Partner free.

*Parents of "highly capable" children are invited to participate in a seven-week series to discuss the social and emotional needs of their children. This class is based on the Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) Model. Emphasis is on problem solving, emotional intelligence, avoiding power struggles, and helping gifted children learn appropriate life skills while enhancing the parent/child relationship. These classes will help to improve your understanding of what makes your children both similar and different from their peers.*

*Topics include:*

- *Understanding motivation and achievement; dealing with perfectionism*
- *Approaches to discipline and the establishment of appropriate boundaries*
- *Stress management and identification of the early signs of depression*
- *Improving peer/sibling/parent relationships and communication of feelings*

The course will be based on the book, *A Parent's Guide to Gifted Children*, by Webb/Gore/Amend/DeVries, ©2007 which is provided and included in the registration fee. James Webb also presented to LWSO parents in July 2010.

Recommended for parents of students in the Enrichment Pull-Out or Full-Time Quest programs, as well as those families interested in the nuances of parenting highly capable children.

Questions or to register, contact Joanne Hall, Parent Education Chair at [lwsdparented@gmail.com](mailto:lwsdparented@gmail.com)

*Sponsored by the Lake Washington Gifted Education Advisory Council (GEAC)*

LWSD Quest and GEAC serve hundreds of families who are spread across the District. *Full Time program* students attend **Alcott, Franklin, Redmond, Smith or Thoreau Elementary Schools.** *Enrichment Pull Out* students spend one day per week at **Mead, Rush, or Sandburg.** *Junior High Quest* students enjoy a clustered grouping of highly-capable learner peers for Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science at **Kamiakin or Redmond Junior High Schools.**

Over 1,000 students across 10 different schools!

## What Can I Do?

### ■ JOIN & SUPPORT GEAC

Go online to: <http://www.lwsdgeac.org/>. Fill out and return the Membership "Enrollment" form via mail. You can *donate online via PayPal* or by sending a *personal check or money order*. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible as per allowed by law and many companies match \$. *Please follow-up with your employer for the appropriate matching gifts form.*

***Thank you. GEAC needs and appreciates your annual support!***

### ■ ATTEND ANY GEAC MONTHLY MEETING

Are you interested in learning more about gifted education? Please join us at any of our regular monthly meetings which are always open for anyone interested.

GEAC Monthly Meeting Dates:

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday: 2010 - Oct 6, Nov 3, Dec 1  
 2011 - Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2, April 6, May 4, & June 1

Time: 6:30-8:30 pm

Location: LWSD Resource Center, 1st floor (free parking behind building & in Redmond Town Center)  
 16250 NE 74th St.  
 Redmond, WA 98052  
 (NE corner of 74<sup>th</sup> St. and Bear Creek Pkwy, next to the Marriott.)

### ■ VOLUNTEER TO BE A GEAC REP FOR YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL OR CLASSROOM

Contact us at [info@lwsdgeac.org](mailto:info@lwsdgeac.org) for more information.

**GEAC c/o LWSD  
 Quest Office  
 P.O. Box 97039  
 Redmond, WA  
 98073-9739**

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